See Huey's Corner page 4

Revolutionary Analysis of Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song! (Part II)

COMMEMORATOR

Published by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party

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Revisiting Our Past for the Sake of Our Future

By Commemorator staff

On September 11, former Black Panther Party members from around the country gathered in Chicago at Malcolm X College to commemorate the Illinois chapter of the BPP and to celebrate the life of Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton who exemplified the most revolutionary aspect of the BPP — its dedicated cadre. The theme of the conference was, "Revisiting Our Past for the Sake of Our Future."

The celebration was organized in Chicago and coordinated by former Illinois State Chapter Deputy Minister of Education Billy (Che) Brooks and other former leading cadre of the Illinois chapter of the BPP, as well as by the Huey P. Newton Foundation. Volunteers and organizers from Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) participated in solidarity with its goals.

CCBPP had a table at the event where CCBPP organizers signed up

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Courtesy of former Illinois BPP cadre

Members of Illinois State Chapter of the Black Panther Party: Fred Hampton, Jr. (far left) embraces former cadre, Dr. Yvonne King. Elaine Brown (front row, holding bag) is surrounded by former cadres, including Dr. Phyllis Gart Ham (right), and Queen Yeyo Akua Njeri (left), the mother of Fred, Jr. and Billy "Che" Brooks (top center with clenched fist).

Former Panthers Lead Voter Registration Drive

CCBPP photo

Bobby Seale, Black Panther Party founder, serves free barbecue meals at Oakland's Bobby Hutton (deFremery) Park, where he and former BPP Chief of Staff David Hilliard led a voter registration drive.

By Commemorator staff

On Saturday, September 25, volunteer organizers with Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party signed up volunteers met at Oakland's deFremery Park, where over 200 people attended a kick-off voter registration drive led by former Black Panther Party leaders Bobby Seale and David Hilliard. The event was a simultaneous annual anniversary picnic for nearby McClymonds High School alumni. Hundreds of former and current McClymonds High School students gathered to meet up with friends and former classmates. Many stopped to shake the hands of their fellow alumni, Bobby Seale and David Hilliard.

"People are seeking solutions to the terrible problems facing our communities," said *Commemorator* Editor Melvin Dickson. "The current electoral process is dominated and controlled by the two-party/one-party system that provides our people with no solutions. Meanwhile, we are out in the community every day to meet people who want to participate in building the apparatus of revolutionary intercommunalism, to be able to win the succinct change needed to turn things around."

"People without the vote, without a party, are like a man without a shadow," stated David Hilliard. "Having your constituents registered to vote where they can use it, if need be, is a part of building a power base. That is why the Black Panther Party registered the black community to vote."

While many attendees at the event saw no fundamental difference in the November 2004 presidential candidates, some believe that local issues are something the election will impact, such as the growth of the state-county prisons industrial complex, public schools and libraries.

CCBPP Organizes Wherever the People are Seeking Solutions

Commemorator Editor Melvin Dickson led the CCBPP delegation that included CCBPP Board Member Marlene Krohn, CCBPP volunteers

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Editorial

Two Sides of the Same Coin

Follow Money Trail and Pick Up Reality Lessons

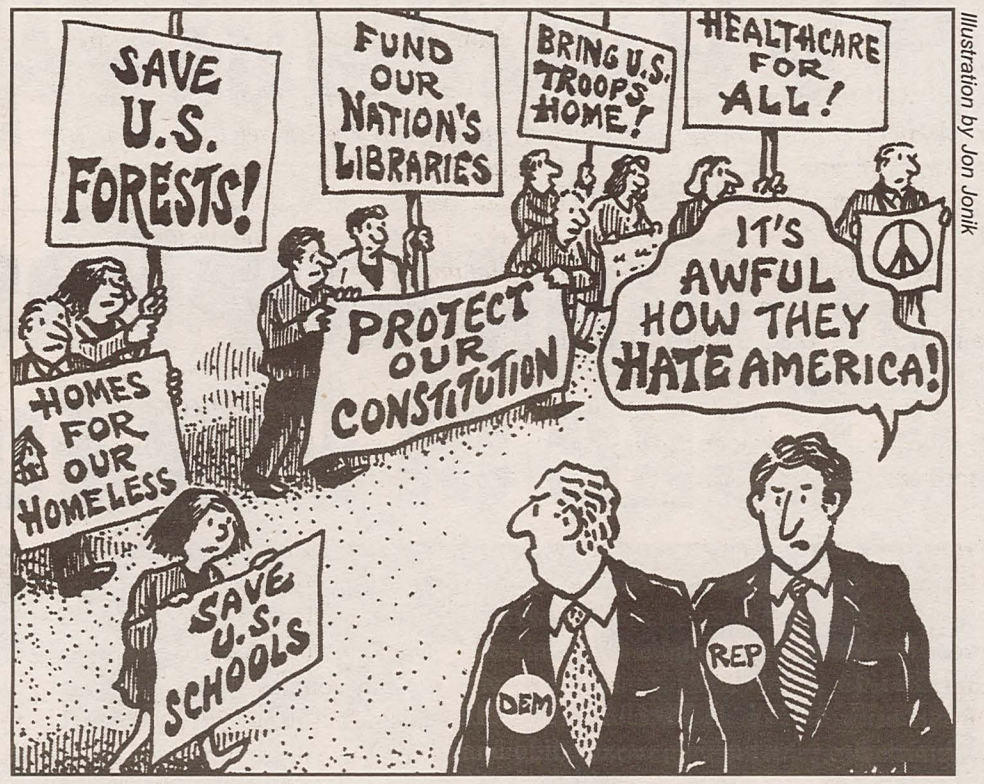

Illustration by Jon Jonik

While both Republican and Democratic Party activists and mainstream presidential contenders have no solution to our failing economy and institutions, both parties have proclaimed that the 2004 election is the "most important" in history, memory, or what have you. The reality is that there is nothing new about this election.

As has been the case since the founding of this nation, the election is about which group of wealthy oligarchs will get to stick their hands the deepest into the pockets of working people at home and abroad. The oil and military interests have, in the main, put their money behind the Republican elephant. The media, entertainment, telecommunications and computer/internet interests tend to back the Democratic donkey. Bill Gates has enough money to back BOTH parties' candidates, as he did in the 2000 election, in order to make sure HE cannot lose his financial fortunes, no matter which party wins.

For the rest of us, the election is not a question of winning, or even picking the lesser of two evils, much less exercising our "rights." We face the reality that the only choices available to us through these bourgeois so-called "democratic" elections is to choose which group of capitalist oligarchs and their particular allies within the international monopoly capitalist class will continue to oppress us and by what means.

The international monopoly capitalist class and its agents within the US government (President Bush and family, Vice-president Dick Cheney and family, Senator John Kerry and family, former President Bill Clinton and family and other multi-millionaires and billionaires), will continue their do-or-die pursuit to consolidate smaller capitalists into the hands of those at the top of the heap of international monopoly capital.

While neither party in the long run can save this economic system from the graveyard of history, they will do everything in their power to stay in control in the present.

Federal Court supports hostile takeovers that eliminate US jobs

Times have changed for capitalism and the monopoly capitalist class as the necessity for its rate of consolidation accelerates during its own death throes. Successful capitalists are not the ones that simply exploit workers, but the ones that exploit more quickly and profitably than the rest so that they can overtake and eat up the slower ones. From a capitalist perspective the world is truly a dog-eat-dog world and the devil does take the hindmost.

The business of Wall Street is a competitive economic war, seen through the many battles among individual transnational corporations, such as Oracle Corporation vs. PeopleSoft Inc. and their hostile takeover struggle. PeopleSoft has been attempting to stop the takeover with an anti-trust lawsuit, among other defensive tactics.

A hostile takeover is a tactic of monopoly capitalism working through a method of buying and selling companies to dominate the market. THEY call it "economy of scale." WE know it to mean that they can put more pressure on fewer workers so as to make greater profits and simultaneously force the workers to compete for the remaining jobs by offering to work for less money, for more hours, with fewer benefits than other workers.

Larry Ellison, one of the wealthiest men in the world and owner of Oracle, fights ruthlessly to monopolize the market on software that keeps track of people's identities for both public and private agencies. He recently offered to "DONATE" to the federal government the software to create a national identity card that will be used by the federal government to keep track of every person in this country.

In Federal Judge Vaughn Walker's antitrust case ruling in September 2004 that Oracle is not in violation of anti-trust law, Oracle now stands a good chance of buying out PeopleSoft Inc. Oracle's plan is to fire about 6,000 of PeopleSoft's 11,700 workers as the company is acquired.

Take Iraq

But hostile takeovers are not the fastest way for international monopoly capitalists to make money. Consider how much money you can make when you can force US taxpayers to fund the takeover of an entire oil-rich nation or even an oil-rich region of the world — like the Middle East. What if you could get the government to borrow $422 BILLION, then give it to your company to manage the war (at ridiculously inflated prices). Then you de facto conscript hundreds of thousands of low-income people — black, brown, red, yellow and white — who have been forced to sign up for military service because they can find no work in the domestic economy, from which you have already removed millions of the decent jobs.

Creating economic conscripts

These economic conscripts are then sent to fight and die in the burning desert to take over the oil reserves so these companies can exploit that wealth. And THEY never have to risk a hair on their heads, nor the head of any relative of theirs, nor ever risk a dollar of their own money, as the working classes of the United States pay for the entire operation with our labor, taxes and lives.

That is why NEITHER KERRY NOR BUSH has ever discussed ENDING the war. Their only points of dispute are which of them would commit more American lives and resources at what speed in order to take and keep control over the Middle East for US oil and military interests.

US Losing Morale in Iraq and Afghanistan As Costs in Lives and Dollars Increase

Crying "wolf" is the order of the day for the media controlled by US monopoly capitalism, as it finds itself losing the war against "terrorism" in the world. If the US truly wanted to win the war against "terrorism" then the US would stop robbing the world's poor and working class people of their natural resources and labor.

US forces are desperately scrambling for control in Iraq and other places where international monopoly capitalists seek power over lands with large oil deposits and their ports. Placement of US military bases is shifting in relation to strategic positioning to be in striking range of these territories for wars of aggression versus the alleged years of Cold War containment.

This is the reason why "American casualties have risen every month since the June handover of political authority to the interim government," per Oakland Tribune columnist Byron Williams. The stakes are high, and the Pentagon knows

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"SERVING ALL OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES"

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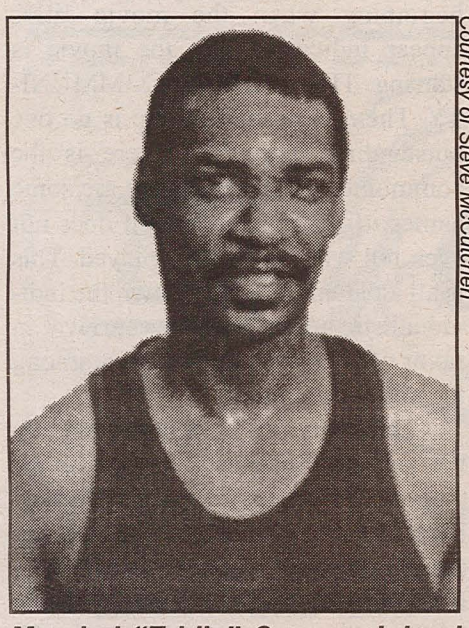
Opinion

Campaign Petitions for Justice for COINTELPRO Victims

Eddie Conway is second longest held political prisoner



Courtesy of Steve McCutchen

Marshal "Eddie" Conway joined the Black Panther Party in 1970 and currently holds the status of the second longest held U.S. Political Prisoner. Conway, a victim of US government COINTELPRO operations, has been held 34 years for a crime he did not commit. He was targeted and persecuted for his participation with the BPP to defend the black and exploited community against political and physical attacks.

By Curly Cohen & Nasreen Mahmud

The Partnership for Social Justice launched a petition drive urging the Congressional Black Caucus to investigate illegal FBI actions that have kept dozens of men and women languishing in prison, long after the government program that imprisoned them has been discredited.

The petition asks Democratic Congressman John Conyers Jr. of Michigan, and Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, to conduct hearings that may result in the freeing of those wrongly convicted who were targets of J. Edgar Hoover's COINTELPRO. Congress has already established that COINTELPRO violated the constitutional rights of thousands of people.

According to the FBI, COINTELPRO's purpose was to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of the Black nationalists." A specific purpose was to prevent the rise of a Black "Messiah," a charismatic leader who might unify and electrify Black people. As Huey P. Newton wrote, "of the 295 documented actions taken by COINTELPRO alone to disrupt Black groups, 233 — or 70% — were specifically directed toward destruction of the Black Panther Party. Over $100 million of taxpayers' money was expended for COINTELPRO; over $7 million of it allocated for 1976 alone to pay off informants and provocateurs, twice the amount allocated in the same period by the FBI to pay organized crime informants."

J. Edgar Hoover, then FBI Director, initiated COINTELPRO in August 1956. Obsessed with counter-subversion, he was convinced the civil rights movement was the result of communist subversives agitating normally docile Blacks into protesting segregation. Under Hoover's leadership a core group of agents developed the counter intelligence program. Their paranoid activist right-wing view was institutionalized by Hoover, and a self-perpetuating network carries on the tradition today, even after his death in 1972.

In 1982, President Reagan pardoned former FBI Director L. Patrick Grey and Edward S. Miller, former heads of Squad 47, the domestic counterintelligence unit embedded in COINTELPRO, after they were convicted of having "conspired to injure and oppress the citizens of the United States." Their convictions had been the product of a 1975 investigation headed by Senator Frank Church that had established that COINTELPRO, from start to finish, had been "fraught with illegality."

Today, over 150 political prisoners are still being held in custody in the US. At least 50 of them are African American activists and many have been in jail for over 20 years. Marshall "Eddie" Conway has been imprisoned for 34 years, on charges he has always denied. Eddie was assumed to be the "third man" allegedly spotted near the scene of a police shooting in Baltimore, on April 24th, 1970. With no physical evidence, incompetent legal defense, a planted informant, corrupt police identification and unreliable testimony, he was convicted and sentenced to life. Through documents

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Two White Guys Vie for 'President of the Empire'

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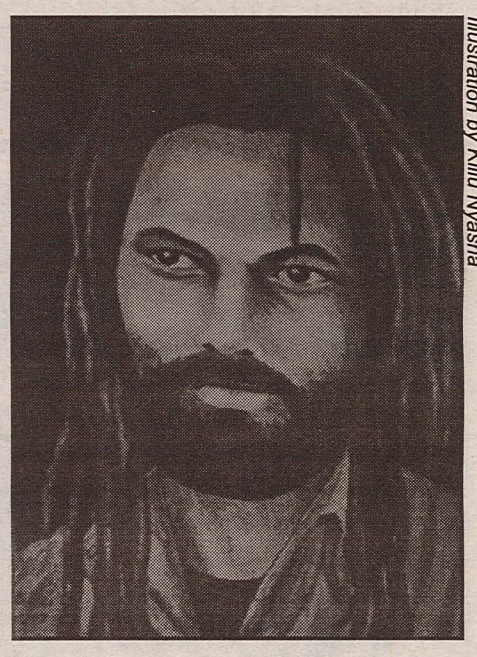

Illustration by Kiilu Nyasha

Every barrier of the Roman constitution had been leveled by the vast ambition of the dictator; every fence had been extirpated by the cruel hand of the Triumvir. After the victory of the Actium, the fate of the Roman world depended on the will of Octavianus, surnamed Caesar, by his uncle's adoption, and afterwards Augustus, by the flattery of the senate.. — Edward Gibbon, The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire *(Penguin: 2000) p. 65.*

In a matter of weeks, the nation's presidential elections will occur, and one of two white guys will take the office as the President of the Empire.

That may sound somewhat tongue-in-cheekish, but truth be told, both George W. Bush and John F. Kerry are imperialists, who just have dissimilar ways of administering the U.S. Empire.

The Vietnam War was ... war for profit; war for empire; war in support of corruption — and, yes — a war of genocide.

Bush favors a "go-it-alone" approach; while Kerry wants a UN-approved, multilateral approach.

That said, it is still too early to predict which way this election will go, for last minute events may have deep impacts on how Americans choose to vote.

The brilliant Arundhati Roy has said the Kerry campaign, should it prevail, will bring the country, "Bushism without Bush."

It is apparent that for Bush to improve upon his razor-sharp "win" in 2000, he must hold his old voters, and bring in new ones. Here's the problem with that scenario: In 2000, millions of American Muslims, many of Arab and South Asian origins, voted for the Bush-Cheney ticket. This group, numbering some 5 or 6 million, delivered over 85% of their vote to the Republicans.

I'm convinced that the GOP garnered that high percentage for one reason; the Democratic ticket that year featured a Jewish American, Connecticut's Senator Joseph Lieberman (D). While it may not have been dispositive for them that he was Jewish, it may have made a difference that he was a Zionist.

Whatever the reason, it's doubtful that anywhere near that percentage will vote for the GOP this year, in light of the failures in Iraq. That point was driven home by a report of a recent Iraqi-American demonstration against the US occupation in Detroit! One would think that Iraqi-Americans would be the closest to the Administration, but Iraq is not going well.

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Archives

Huey's Corner

HE WON'T BLEED ME

A Revolutionary Analysis:

Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song

PART II: CONTINUED FROM "July 2004" ISSUE

By Dr. Huey P. Newton

Black Panther Intercommunal Service

In 1971, BPP Chairman, Bobby Seale, then recently released from prison, embraced Minister of Defense Huey P. Newton.

In the meantime we see Sweetback making it through the edges of the city and heading for the desert. He has none of the high-powered technology of the oppressor, but he does have his feet. In one scene we see him going by a large factory; it looks like a chemical plant or something like that. Here you see the drama being symbolized to its fullest. Sweetback with his feet making it only, and you realize that this is the drama developing, the soul-force of the people against the technology of the oppressor. The only question is which will win? The answer is given by Sweetback in his plea to his feet, he says:

Come on feet
Cruise for me
Come legs
Come on run
Come on feet
Do your thing
Who put the bad mouth on me
Anyway the way I pick em up
And put em down
Even if it got
My name on it
Won't catch me now.

This is Sweetback's answer to the oppressor's technology. Even if the bullet has his name on it, it won't catch him now. Why? Because Sweetback has feet and they will save him.

This is also the beginning of the dialogue between the running Sweetback and the colored angels. As soon as he hits the desert where the situation is really going to be bad, the colored angels come in and try to discourage him. But he has feet, he has heart, and he has courage, and in the dialogue he resists the angels' discouragement as much as he resists the technology of the police, who are always searching.

Now I would like to discuss the movie from a different angle. Instead of a scene-by-scene analysis I want to talk about some of the important ideas signified in various scenes. Some of these ideas have been mentioned already, but I think that it is important to restate them because Melvin Van Peebles uses them so effectively and he is trying to advance our awareness and understanding. So we repeat for added emphasis.

The first key idea or concept which I think the movie presents to us is the need for unity among all the members and institutions within the community and the victims. We see the idea of unity between the young and old beautifully expressed in the love and care which the women give to the young boy, and also in the concern Sweetback expresses for Moo-Moo after he realizes that he is truly unified with him. You will recall that Sweetback has an actual dialogue at only six points in the movie; three of these points are in relationship to Moo-Moo. So the revolutionary and the righteous street brothers see their functional unity. When Sweetback first downs the cops and saves Moo-Moo, Moo-Moo then asks Sweetback, "Where did you get that 'we' shit?" this indicates that Sweetback does not understand his need for unity with Moo-Moo. Yet, after his encounter with Beatle, Sweetback realizes that he cannot depend on his boss, the guy he should have been able to depend on. But Moo-Moo was somewhere out there being hunted and so was Sweetback — and they were united.

Then, when the gamblers are giving Sweetback a ride to the edge of town he spots Moo-Moo and he tells his comrades to stop. This is the second time he speaks about the revolutionary. Now when Moo-Moo gets in the car, he tells the brothers who he is, but they still don't see their need for unity because, to them, he's not Moo-Moo, he is the guy who got their partner into trouble. They blame the victim rather than those who victimize him, but this is because of their low level of awareness. Sweetback did the same earlier, but he was revolutionized by his awareness of the true situation. Our unity will come out of consciousness, and this is the point: to raise the consciousness of the Black community.

The film also demonstrates the functional unity between the present and the future. Once again we see this in the women giving nourishment and love to the boy who is their future, their liberator. If they did not feed him now and give him the strength to survive until his revolutionary consciousness is aroused, then he would not be able to liberate them. So pending the revolution they must do all they can to help him survive.

We also see the unity between the present and the future when Sweetback visits the church. He receives no help but gets a little more understanding of the true nature of his contribution to the community. The minister tells him that what he did for Moo-Moo was the correct thing to do. He says, "You saved the plant that they were planning to nip in the bud. That's why the Man's down on you." Then later when Sweetback has another chance to escape, but without Moo-Moo, he tells the black motorcyclist to take the young brother instead. The motorcyclist asks Sweetback if he knows what he is doing? and he replies, "He's our future, Brer. Take him."

The film also demonstrates the value of unity among the entire Black Community. This is shown at the very beginning when the movie titles appear indicating that the movie is starring THE BLACK COMMUNITY. There is no hero, there is no one outstanding individual, there is the community. At the end there are some names of participants, but it does not even tell what roles they played. This is all an attempt to play down the individualistic approach to our survival in favor of an expression of unity among the entire community.

This unity is also demonstrated by the fact that Sweetback has almost no dialogue in the entire movie. He says hardly anything at all. Why? Because the movie is not starring Sweetback, it is starring the Black community. Most of the audiences are Black and they talk to the screen. They supply the dialogue because all of us are Sweetback; we are all in the same predicament of being victims. This is clearly seen when Sweetback comes back to Beatle for

help. Sweetback says nothing, but Beatle lets it come out of both ends. The audience replies to Beatle for Sweetback, and they supply the dialogue. This happens throughout the film. So the thing to do is not just see the film, but also to recognize how you the viewer are also an actor in the film, for you are as much a victim of this oppressive system as Sweetback.

The unity of the community is shown throughout the film and we should get the message the brother is signifying to us. When the community sets the police car afire and saves Sweetback, that is an expression of unity. When they deny ever having seen him in order to permit him to escape, that is an expression of unity. When the police raid the motel and rip the brother's eye out, they say, "So what?" when told this is not Sweetback. But it is Sweetback, in a sense, because the brother is another victim like all of us. When Beatle is rolled up to the morgue and realizes that the body they show him is not Sweetback, he sees his unity as a victim with his brother who he failed to help, who is also a victim. And Beatle cracks up laughing; they are unified. And in the next scene at the shoeshine stand Van Peebles signifies to the man that he can kiss his ass.

Another expression of unity in the film is the power symbol. When the minister tells Sweetback the significance of the job he has done for Moo-Moo, he then says a Black Ave Maria for him and ends up giving him the power sign-unity. Then when Moo-Moo gets on the motorcycle to escape, leaving Sweetback behind, this is different from their first parting. They give each other a soul shake. So that even though they go separate ways, they are unified.

Finally the film demonstrates the importance of unity and love between Black men and women. This is shown again in the scene where the woman makes love to the young boy, which in fact baptizes him into his true manhood. Also, when the woman makes love to Sweetback and then gets the handcuffs off him, we see that these are not sex scenes, they are love scenes in a very holy and righteous context. The second woman wants Sweetback to beg, but he has been transformed. His baptism in the blood transformed him; he has ripped off his oppressors and he is truly a man. He can never beg again, and he does not.

For a long time the Black community has been a collection of people who survive together in one place, but unity is essential for liberation as well as survival. When we have this unity, the faith of one becomes the faith of another, as in the case of Sweetback and Moo-Moo. When we have our consciousness increased, victimizers will always try to prevent this unity.

Another idea the film gets across is the different point of view between the victim and the victimizer. The victimizers cannot accept the reality and truth of the view of the victims, and therefore they say that the victims are always wrong in their view of reality. Indeed, they even go so far as to signify that the victims cannot control and direct their own lives. This is seen first of all in the fact that the film is labeled with an "X" rating. The oppressors see Sweetback as a sex film, but if we truly understand ourselves and unify with Sweetback, we will see that the film advocates a bloody overthrow of the oppressor. Melvin Van Peebles is righteously signifying.

The view of the victims is seen in many ways. One of them is in the understanding of Moo-Moo and Sweetback. They both know that they are victims, although Moo-Moo has not really gotten his complete program together for the community. Yet they seek the same goals of freedom and liberation, and they recognize that sometimes you have to use stern stuff to accomplish your goals. They also recognize that even though the community may not support you entirely, they will support you to a point. Therefore, you must go as far as the community will go, and then move out on your own, leading the people to a higher level of consciousness. Sweetback relies on the community much more than Moo-Moo because he understands that revolution is a process, going from A to B to C and so forth, rather than trying to get the people to jump from A to Z.

... if you do not submit to the oppressor, you may be forced to make some harsh decisions, eat some undesirable foods, but this is better than being well-fed in some social prison.

The oppressor does not understand this, he does not understand the strength of the will of the people. When the two policemen catch Sweetback after he leaves Beatle's place, they are friendly because they cannot accept the idea that the community will free itself. So they ask Sweetback how many people were in the ambush? How did they work it? The oppressors cannot accept the idea that the oppressed could do this without a lot of planning, without a large number of people. It was only Sweetback and Moo-Moo, but to the victimizer it had to be more than that. A difference in point of view, a point of view which is too often used to control us, but we must make our own point of view prevail.

Another difference in point of view is seen with the chains which are used on Sweetback twice in the film. To the oppressor they are the chains which keep us in a submissive position, but each time for Sweetback, the oppressed, they become tools of liberation. We will be even stronger when we learn how to turn the oppressor's tools against him rather than submitting to them.

Another idea which Melvin Van Peebles puts across is the uselessness of cultist behavior in our struggle for survival and liberation. In earlier issues of the paper I have talked about the revolutionary cultist, the cultural cultist, and the religious cultist. Van Peebles strikes some heavy blows at the religious and cultural cultists. For example, the minister understands that he is not moving the people toward their true liberation. He tells Sweetback that what he is doing is giving the people a hype that gives them a little happiness, but he then goes on to say that Moo-Moo and the younger guys are laying down the real religion. So this is a blow against those religions in the Black community which do not help people deal with the conditions which drive them to their knees, but instead want to keep people on their knees.

The strongest blow against cultist behavior, however, is saved for the cultural cultists. We see this in the African garb which the minister is wearing. This is signifying that a lot of cultural nationalism and the meaningless religions in the community are deceiving the people in the same ways.

In another way, the film makes this point more strongly and also indicates the true way to liberation. When Sweetback arrives at the gambler's den, the men around the table are engaged in a conversation. The manager has complained to Sweetback that he cannot even make any money on this operation because he is paying off so many others. The cultural cultist offers many empty solutions to our oppression and this scene hits at these solutions.

After the manager's speech one gambler says, "And Africa shall stretch forth her arms," and then another replies, "Yeah, and bring back a bloody stump." Now we have to understand the true issue in order to see this as a blow to cultural nationalists, who are cultural cultists (with African clothes, bones and other things, but have no ways to liberate the people). Cultural cultists, who try

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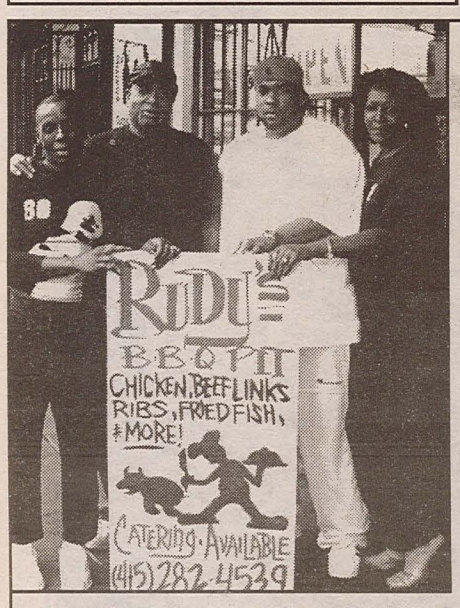

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Genocide Against Prisoners

Dear Editor,

Based on the following events, it is my belief that some time in the late 70's or early 80's the governor's office, Attorney General's Office (AG) and California Board of Prison Terms (BPT) entered into a collusive agreement to devise a plan to commit genocide on all California Prisoners sentenced to Life with the Possibility of Parole pursuant to California Penal code, Sections (CPC) 1168 of the former Indeterminate Sentencing Law (ISL).

In order for the scheme to succeed, then Attorney General George Deukmejian had to pressure State Judges to refrain from upholding the In re: Rodriques (1975) 122 Cal. RPTR.552) decision and stop enforcing the 1976 Determinate Sentencing Law/Act (DSA). The "Release from Prison" revisions of the DSA are found in CPC: Sections 1170.2, PC3065, and CPC: 3-41(R).

Deukmejian pressured State Judges by accusing Former Chief Judge of the State Supreme Court, Rose Bird, of being soft on crime, too liberal. The tactic worked because in 1986 Rose Bird was not reelected to the Supreme Court.

By the time Deukmejian became Governor, no State Judge would uphold the Rodriquez term fixing mandate or enforce the release from prison provisions of the DSA. Publicly Deukmejian claimed ISL Prisoners did not have a right to be paroled.

Although this bogus claim was contrary to California Decisional and Statutory Law, he was confident that the campaign against Rose Bird had terrorized or frightened state judges to the point that they would tacitly go along with the de Facto no parole for Lifers.

When the DSL was crafted by the legislature the term "fixing language" in the Rodriquez decision was incorporated into the latter three penal code sections. When Attorney General represented the BPT during the Litigation of In Re Johnson (198) 166

Continued on page 9

Victory Gardeners from Portland, Maine

Dear Editor,

We are not distributing this food as an act of charity. We are trying to share healthy organic food to show our neighbors what can be done when we work together to supply our own needs. We do not think that charity changes society's problems. We believe people will remain victims of the unjust economic system as long as we accept this temporary solution. Instead, we feel it is necessary to create alternatives that will empower ourselves to become more self-reliant.

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-Albert Nuh Washington

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A Celebration of Life for Greshanda Renee Williams

PEOPLE

People are just people living from day to day
taking life for granted come what may
Rushing through life like there is no tomorrow
Building up and tearing down where there was joy now there is sorrow
Growing wiser but weaker year after year
And yet no one realizes that the end is near
Precious time waits for no one and it passes so fast
So be thankful for each moment for it could be your last
What's done in the dark shall surely come to the light
and it will make no difference be it day or night
So take heed my brothers and sisters to these words I say
For as sure as you are born you are going to die one day
So pray, people pray.

By Aunt Dorothy Bordenave

The family of Greshanda Renee Williams wishes to express their sincere thanks to their many relatives and friends for the telephone calls, home visits, flowers and other expressions of sympathy during our time of bereavement. From the bottom of our hearts, God Bless each of you.

My cousin, my friend I love you. Greshanda, I will always have you in my heart. I will make sure Devon and Devin will always remember you. Greshanda, no one will ever be able to take your place. I'm going to miss you everyday of my life.
- Love your big cousin, Falana.

Greshanda leaves numerous relatives, Great Aunts, Great Uncles, Cousins and friends.

Sunrise: December 11, 1987
Sunset: September 22, 2004

Newtons's Analysis of *Sweetback*

Continued from page 5

to claim that they have the way, often use this scripture to support their ideas: "Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God." (Psalms 68:31) You can see that what Van Peebles is signifying is that those who use such meaningless arguments to mislead the people have nothing to offer, because when they stretch forth their arms, they will draw back a bloody stump. Still, however, Van Peebles does show us how a bloody stump may not be a meaningless thing, if we get out of that cultist bag. How does he do this? He shows the blood on Sweetback's arms each time he downs the cops. In his first baptism by blood, there is blood all the way up to his elbows. And later when he downs the cops in the poolroom, there is blood up to his elbow again. That is the true route to liberation: stern action when the situation demands that you seize the time and turn away from cultist behavior.

There is another key idea which comes through repeatedly. That is the ability of the people to survive even under the hardest conditions. We do this by using the means available to us and never worrying about the fact that we don't have the technology that the oppressor has. You will recall that Sweetback was in chains and in the back of the police car when the people "washed" it with gasoline. What did the brother do? He made it out of the car and then walked right through the police and firemen who were arriving to try and deal with the situation. He walked right through them — he did not panic and run, he just calmly turned a situation of oppression to his advantage.

This is how we define power: the ability to define phenomena and make them act in a desired manner.

Later on, when Sweetback and Moo-Moo had separated for the final time, the brother was faced with a very difficult situation, and he had very little to carry him through. But when the colored angels began to get down on him he told them, "I got feet." This was again symbolizing survival. It was not simply that he had feet, however, he also had the ability to use the technology of the oppressor in his own interest. He did not become discouraged because he had no car. Van Peebles could have had him steal a car, but instead he had Sweetback use the basic skills of survival with nothing but the things he had learned for surviving the oppressor for so many years on the block. He doesn't have a car, but he rides: on the top of a truck, inside the back of another truck, on a freight train. He uses the oppressor's technology, but in his own interest.

He also survives by using the system against itself. He meets another traveler and pays him to change clothes and run when he is chased. This throws the police off his trail and helps him survive, but it also means that he ends up with clothes which are much more suitable for his long run across the desert. Later in the film when he's near the border and the dogs are after him, the two men (the owner of the dogs and the policeman) get into a fight between themselves about whether the dogs should be untied. This is all to Sweetback's advantage, turning the oppressors against each other, and he makes his escape.

In another way he survives the way that the Black community has always survived — by using the resources at his command even though they are not the resources others would use. Survival forces some very harsh decisions on us. When his wound is causing him to suffer, he urinates upon the earth and uses his own urine to make a mudpack, which he applies to the wound. It produces a rapid healing. These are the kind of home remedies we have long had to use because we could not get proper medical attention. Later, we see him bathing his face in a pool of muddy water. It sustains him. When I saw it, I thought of that song which says "I'd rather drink muddy water, and sleep in a hollow log than stay here and be treated like a dirty dog."

These are survival techniques all the audience can identify with because they realize they are necessary. They don't identify with the time he catches that lizard and downs it, raw. But this is no different from the times when we had to eat the chitterlings, hog maws, and other foods, not because we wanted to, but because that was all we had to eat. We may deny it, we may not identify with it, but it carried us through. And the point we should understand is that if you do not submit to the oppressor, you may be forced to make some harsh decisions, eat some undesirable foods, but this is better than being well-fed in some social prison.

Sweetback has only one tool with him, his knife, and he uses it very effectively. It reminds me of that point in The Wretched of the Earth where Fanon says that if you don't have a gun then a knife will do. He uses his knife to escape at the Rock Concert by pretending to make love to the girl in the bushes. He uses the knife against the lizard. And then when he hears the dogs coming after him, he again pulls it out and uses it, and he really deals. But we should know it would be this way because earlier in the poolroom when he was facing the policeman with a gun, what did Sweetback have? A tool the community knows how to use very effectively, a pool cue. But he did not use it to down pool balls, he turned it into a spear and downed the oppressor. You don't need a gun. What you need is the consciousness of what it will take to survive and prevail in any given situation, and then you need to act accordingly.

What I have done is to give you a scene-by-scene analysis of the film, then an analysis of some of the major ideas and concepts. Now I will show how the movie also raises the consciousness of the community by analyzing it in terms of some aspects of the ideology of the Black Panther Party.

We see ideology as a systematic way of thinking about phenomena, not as some set of abstract conclusions. Our approach is one that uses dialectical materialism, which holds that contradictions are the ruling principle of the universe. Everywhere, in all of life — the social forces, the natural forces, and the biological and physical forces — we can find contradictions. What we mean is that in every phenomenon there's a contradiction between opposing forces which struggle to gain domination over each other. We call this the thesis and anti-thesis, or the unity of the opposites. Because these opposites are both unified and constantly in struggle with one another, they give motion to the matter composing the phenomenon. So we say that matter is constantly in motion, or constantly in a state of transformation. The transformation takes place in a dialectical manner, with the thesis struggling against the anti-thesis. These are the contradictions. The struggle is resolved in a synthesis that contains elements of the old contradictions, but at a higher level. Then a new set of contradictions will arise.

The essence of the ideology of the Black Panther Party is that we recognize that matter is constantly in transformation in a dialectical manner. But when we understand this and understand the forces in operation, we can control them and direct them in a manner which is beneficial for the community. Therefore, what we want to do is understand the contradictions within every aspect of the Black Community and move on them by trying to increase the positive side of each contradiction until it comes to dominate the negative side. This is how we define power: the ability to define phenomena and make them act in a desired manner.

If you understand where the Panther is coming from, you will understand that Sweet Sweetback is a beautiful exemplification of Black Power, for what he does is decide how he wants things to come out, and then he makes them act in a desired manner. The movie is also an exemplification of the dialectical analysis and the constant transformation of phenomena. I don't know whether Melvin Van Peebles was aware of this when he made the movie, but it does have these features. It gives us lots of insight and understanding.

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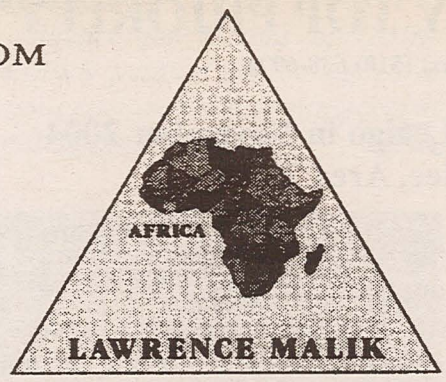

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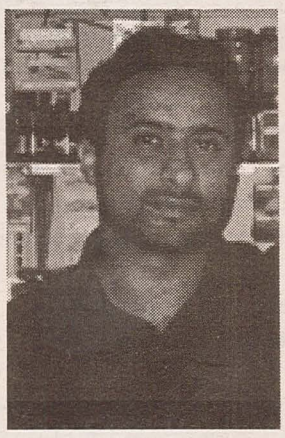

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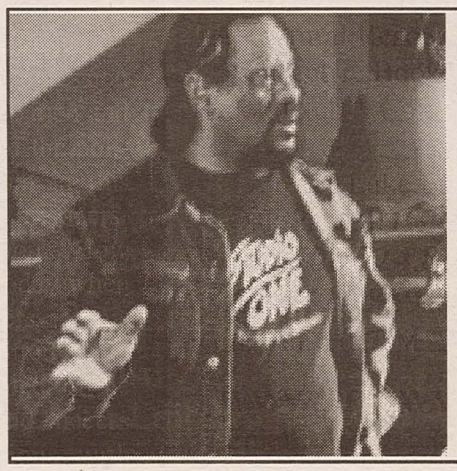

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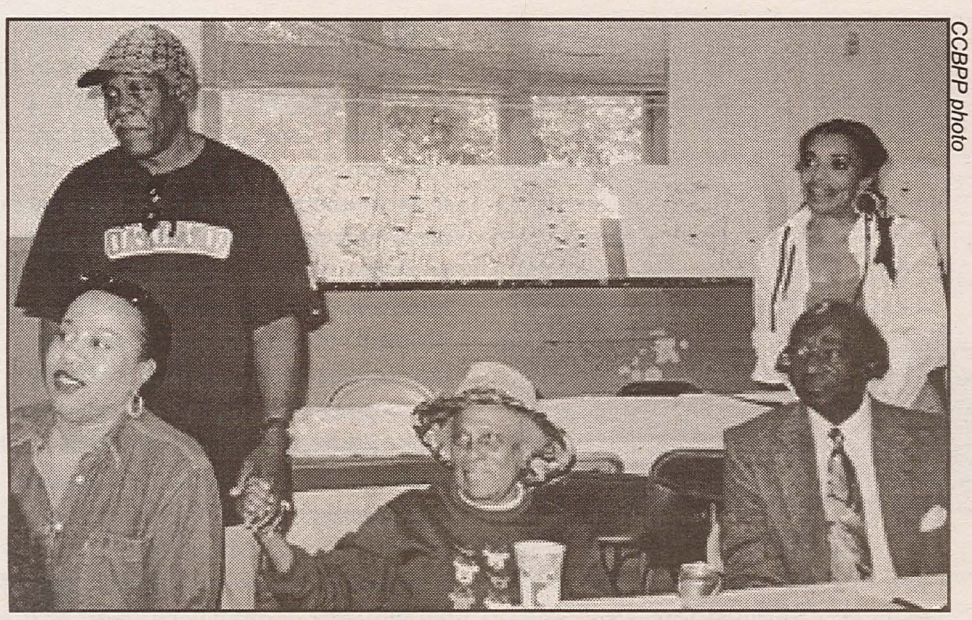


CCBPP photo

David Hilliard holds hand of longtime community activist, Ruth Jones, while listening to speakers, with Marlene Krohn, CCBPP organizer in the background.

Voter Registration

Continued from page 1

Constance James and Robert Flanigan and *Commemorator* sponsorship coordinator Bobby Coleman.

At the event, BPP founder Bobby Seale spoke to some of the tactics in the electoral arena the BPP used historically to build community support. "One of the hallmarks of the Black Panther Party was that, even in the early days, we registered people to vote as part of our survival program," stated Seale, who in 1968, along with other Black Panther Party leaders, ran on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket for state representative. In 1974, with the backing of the BPP and many local organizations, Seale also ran for Mayor of Oakland against incumbent John Reading.

Seale lost the electoral campaign but the process of the grass-roots election campaign helped strengthen the BPP's roots in the community.

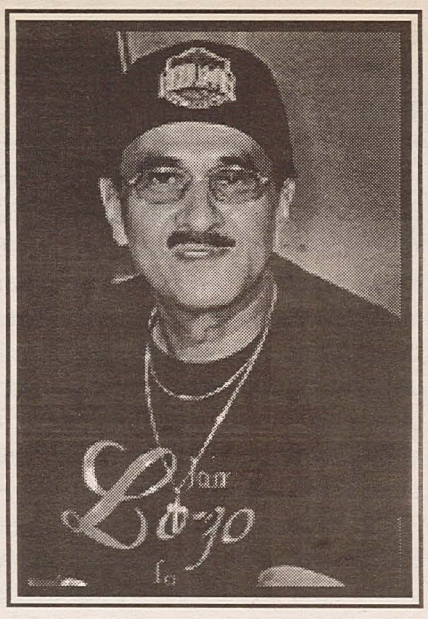
The BPP Ten Point Platform and the concept of "All Power to the People" means the right for everyone willing to work to have a living wage job, the right for everyone to have access to decent housing fit for the shelter of human beings and the right for everyone to have access to full health care services, as well as the right for everyone to own collective power to end police brutality at home and all wars of aggression abroad.

"Not losing sight of collective goals calls for a higher level of struggle, calls for disciplined organization capable of weathering the storm in the face of the many repressive attacks from the other side that happen against the people organizing for fundamental change in the status quo," said CCBPP Chair Melvin Dickson. "That is to say, organizers and activists must focus on seizing the time, focus on assuming power in the interest of the people, which goes well beyond elections."

The event consisted of a free breakfast at 9:00 AM for volunteers registering voters and was highlighted with down-home barbeque for the volunteers returning at lunchtime. The barbeque, with potato salad and baked beans, was prepared by none other than Bobby Seale and a team of volunteers. Participants in this voter registration kick-off included former BPP members, prison activists, students, supporters, and Oakland residents.

"One thing the BPP experience taught me is that in order to win power it will take a day-to-day approach to building positive programs in communities that need them the most, and that means not confusing tactics and strategies," stated Melvin Dickson. "Real change for our communities will only come through building our own independent, self-help community based and controlled organizations."

CCBPP is continuing to build its community outreach through door-to-door canvassing of low-income communities, speaking engagements and community outreach tables that sign-up new members to CCBPP. If you are interested in participation and learning to represent the CCBPP in this campaign, or if you can help provide an opportunity for a speaking engagement or outreach table in a classroom, church or community event for CCBPP to tell its story, please call CCBPP at 510-652-7170.



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Born and reared in Oakland. From elementary through high school, Johnny attended the Oakland schools and is a 1965 McClymonds High School graduate. He earned an AA Degree at Laney College in '70; BS Degree at San Jose State University in '72; and MS Degree in Counseling at CSU Hayward in '78. He holds a Pupil Personnel Services Credential in K-12 Counseling and a California Community College Counseling Credential. An East Oakland resident for 25 consecutive years, Johnny Lorigo has filed an official Declaration of Candidacy for Trustee Area 2 of the Peralta Community College District.

He has served the PCCD in the following part-time capacities:

* Student Recruiter and Assistant Student Activities Intern at College of Alameda
* Assistant Men's Basketball Coach and Counselor at Laney College
* Coordinator of Merritt College extension courses at Castlemont High School
* He has also served as an Advisory Board Member of the Educational Opportunities Program and Services (EOPS) for underprivileged students at Laney College for ten years.

His election platform in pursuit of the Area 2 Trustee seat is built on the goal of helping to bring fiscal solvency back to the PCCD through a shared decision-making process without sacrificing quality education to students and the livelihood of our committed faculty and staffs.

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*** Laney College-A.A. Degree**

*** San Jose State University – B.S. Degree**

*** Cal State Hayward – M.S. Degree**

*** Castlemont High School Counselor/ Athletic Director**

PERALTA COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:
*** Part-time Student Recruiter & Assistant Student Activities Intern College of Alameda**

*** Part-time Assistant Men's Basketball Coach & Counselor at Laney College**

*** Part-time Coordinator of Merritt College Extension Courses at Castlemont High School**

*** Educational Opportunities Program and Services (EOPS)**

Advisory Board Member at Laney College

Mumia

Continued from page 3

But that's not the end of the story. Bush's best chance to win in November is Kerry's failure to energize his base, and expand it.

It seems doubtful that he can do this if he simply mimics the White House on war, as he has been doing. The nation showed its deep anti-war fervor prior to the war, and this has only been deepened by subsequent events in Iraq and elsewhere. All of that anti-war energy will be dissipated if Kerry tries the old "me too" path to power.

When Kerry announced recently that he would've voted for the war, even if he knew then that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the millions of anti-war folks around the country issued an almost audible gasp.

What the nation needs is an anti-imperialist program, that renounces the utility of war for corporate ends and objectives.

It is fitting that the biggest media "issue" in the race is, once again, Vietnam.

Over a decade ago, the former President Bush, glorying in the aftermath of the first Iraq War, exclaimed, "By God, we've kicked the Vietnam Syndrome once and for all!" (Newsweek, 3/11/91).

Thirteen years later, and Kerry is forced to contend with what — the Vietnam War. Rightist elements in the US, want him to apologize for his gripping testimony before Congress in 1971.

For millions of people who opposed the war then, this was John Kerry's finest hour.

The Vietnam War was not a "noble cause." It was war for profit; war for empire; war in support of corruption — and, yes — a war of genocide.

Iraq, after the dust has settled, will be seen in much the same way by later generations.

Empires end as all things do — in dust.

Eddie Conway

Continued from page 3

accessed through the Freedom of Information Act, we know that the FBI (through COINTELPRO) had been monitoring Eddie for months before the shooting. Why? Because Eddie was an active and leading member of the Black Panther Party.

Our sisters and brothers are being held as political prisoners and prisoners of war, not because of crimes they've committed, but because of their political beliefs, political actions and organizational affiliations.

"Although we've only recently become aware of the abuses going on at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, for years we've known about our freedom fighter comrades being terrorized and tortured in the cold, brutal concentration camps conveniently located right here in the racist, capitalist United States. At the same time, right wing presidents have pardoned the victimizers long ago," said Jenny Laskin, California teacher and community activist. "These political prisoners expose the fact that there are resistance movements in this country of such political impact that the government is compelled to use repression against us."

Justice for Victims of COINTELPRO petition can be signed at www.petitiononline.com/psjcomm/petition.html.

Genocide Against Prisoners

Continued from page 6

Cal.RPTR.84, he argued that CPC: 1170.2(b) was not mandatory. The court disagreed the BPT did not have jurisdiction to incarcerate prisoners beyond the time deadlines in Subdivision (b) of 1190.2 if a serious offender hearing was not held by the dates stated in the code.

The Court states in the case of In Re Montigold (1983) CALPTR.695, that the ISL was repealed on July 1, 1977 and replaced by the DSL. ID 701.

Every Governor who has succeeded Deukmejian (Pete Wilson, Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger) have followed his No-Parole Scheme by not enforcing the Term Fixing Laws. Contrary to what any politician may say about these issues, I am certain that a one-year law student could spend less than an hour reading the court decisions and statutes mentioned in this letter and realize that ISL prisoners indeed have a right to a release date by a certain date. On Page 88 of the In Re Johnson Case, Regulations (Section 2165, Cal. Code of Reg. tit.15) provide that a serious Defender Hearing "Shall be conducted within 120 days of reception of the affected Prisoner." This regulation is based on CPC: 1170.2 (b).

Hitler's methods of committing genocide on the Jewish people in German prisons and concentration camps, certainly differ from Deukmejian's scheme to subvert the Term Fixing Laws, however, the outcome in both scenarios are identical twins – "Death while in the custody of Nefarious People"! Some people may disagree on the basis that the BPT and governor's office may one day abide by the term Implemented: and Lifers were prohibited from starting a family in the visiting programs (i.e. Lifers that do not have parole dates established by the BPT). A Hitlerish decision was made to end the lives of all Lifers while in the custody of the California Department of Corrections.

It cost taxpayers about $31,000 a year to house each and every Lifter beyond the ISL Sentencing Guidelines. This may explain why the CDC's yearly budget is over $5 billion. Anyone who reads this letter can help blow the whistle on the hideous No-Parole Scheme by posting this information on Prisoner's Websites, or Informing Prisoners serving 25 years to Life, 15 years to Life, 7 Years to Life and Life with the Possibility of Parole, that they should read the authorities I've mentioned and file Habeas Corpus Writs in the Superior courts demanding that the BPT calculate their PC1170.2 OSA Release Date pursuant to PC3041 © 1170.2 (bible) and 3065.

Charles Manson is serving a seven years-to-life term. The politicians have been using his case as an excuse for not abiding by the term fixing laws. The Manson excuse does not justify Genocide.

Sincerely,
Mr. Colvin McCright,
A.K.A. Mandy

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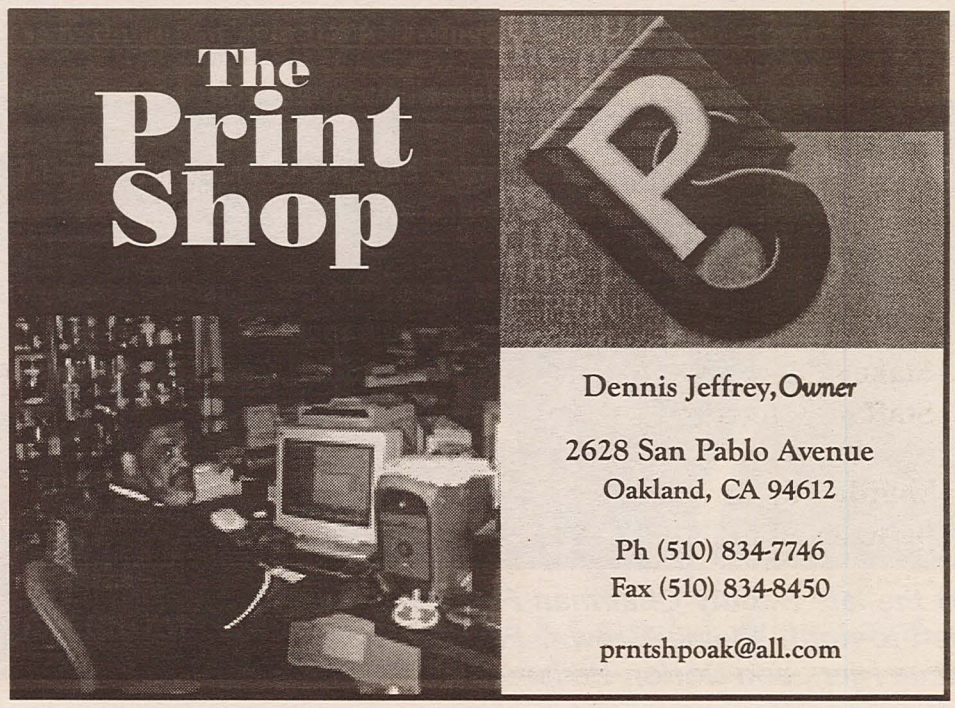
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For the Sake of Our Future

Continued from page 1

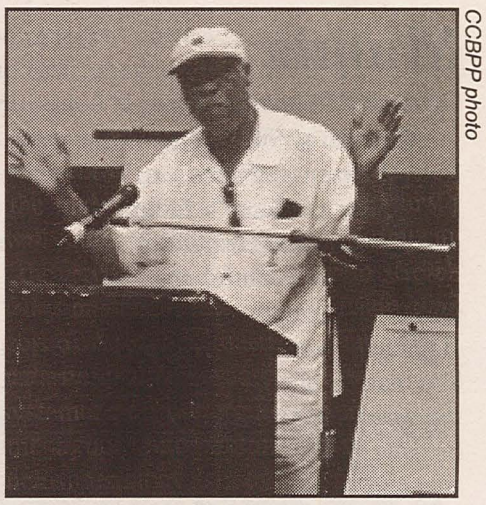
new participants, many of whom also became new subscribers to *The Commemorator*. CCBPP Chair and *Commemorator* publisher Melvin Dickson, in greeting convention delegates and guests, called on everyone to give the only fitting tribute appropriate to a fallen warrior, to pick up his weapons — in this case the weapons of organization and revolutionary survival programs — and carry on the fight to victory. CCBPP Board members Bobby Coleman of Oakland, California and Dorothy Bordenave of Atlanta, Georgia, helped lead the signups at CCBPP's information table.

Opening of the Program

The program opened with a *Drum Call* by Thunder Sky Drummers. Then Selah G. Allen performed a traditional African ceremony known as a libation to honor the spirits of fallen Black Panther Party comrades. Elaine Brown, former BPP chairperson, sang the Black Panther Party anthem. Dr. Phyllis Ham Garth, Conference Chair, gave an introduction and overview of the conference, thanking everyone for their support and participation in preparations for the event.

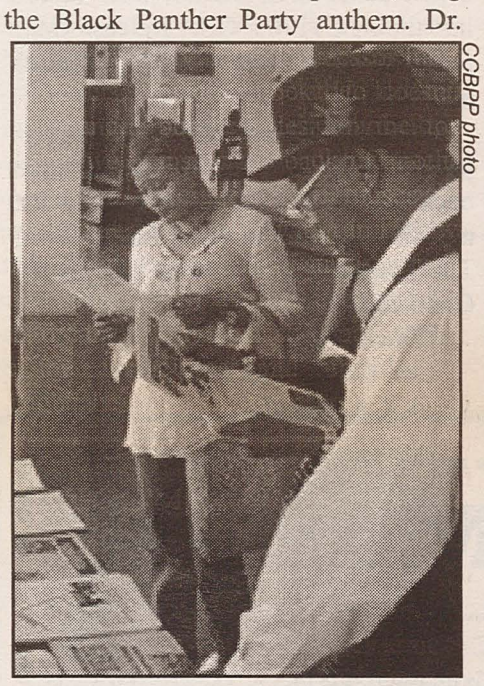
CCBPP photo

Former BPP member Billy "Che" Brooks (center) hosts discussion with Elaine Brown, (left) author and former BPP Chair and Stan McKinney, engaging the youthful audience in questions.

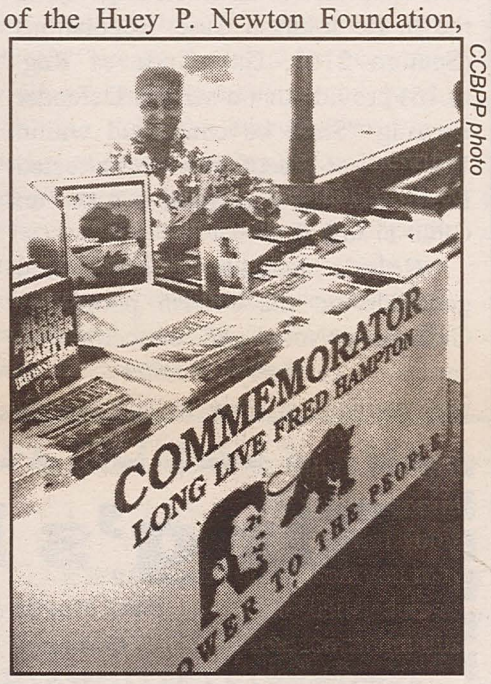


CCBPP photo

Former BPP Chief-of-Staff and current director of the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation David Hilliard gave the keynote presentation on the legacy of the BPP.



CCBPP photo



CCBPP photo

Former Black Panther Party member Bobby Coleman (left foreground), and Dorothy Bordenave (seated at right), both from Oakland, California oversee CCBPP literature table at Chicago Malcolm X College for the Black Panther martyr Fred Hampton.

Among the many highlights of the program was a presentation on the Ten Point Program by members of the former Illinois State BPP Chapter, speaking to the issues of healthcare, education, housing, police brutality and illegal wars of aggression, such as the current war in Iraq. Various members presented one of the points of the Ten Point Program within the context of the problems society faces today, especially the exploitation and oppression of poor people and minorities. Their remarks made clear how perfectly relevant, current and true this program stands today, and is in need of strong organization to fight for its fruition.

David Hilliard, former BPP Chief of Staff and current Executive Director of the Huey P. Newton Foundation, gave an insightful slide presentation on the community service aspect of the BPP historic struggle. He showed dozens of pictures of children in BPP schools, food programs, clinics, BPP members in solidarity with groups such as the United Farm Workers (UFW). His presentation highlighted the national and international impact of the BPP. Hilliard pointed out how the BPP leadership addressed day-to-day needs of the low-income black community, while the organization was facing direct attacks by the police, FBI and the establishment media.

Hilliard pointed out that the Illinois chapter of BPP was one of the largest in the nation and led the US in circulation of *Black Panther News Service,* distributing many thousands of copies each issue. Working in a disciplined manner under the guidance of the BPP national leadership, National Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton led the Illinois chapter in developing free breakfast programs that fed hundreds of hungry children daily before going to school, and established one of the first BPP free medical clinics, which helped lead the fight against sickle cell anemia. He began to transform Chicago's youth gangs into revolutionary political organizations.

In the wee hours of December 3, 1969, members of the Chicago police "red squad" murdered comrade Fred Hampton, a mere 21 years old, along with Mark Clark, another dedicated BPP comrade.

National and International Impact of the Black Panther Party

Elaine Brown joined Hilliard on stage and shared a story of when the UFW was marching through Oakland and had nowhere to stay. They called the BPP to see if they could help them out. One of the party members was working at Mills College in Oakland. They arranged for the school to put up 200 farm workers! They ate and played music. The BPP supported the UFW Lettuce Boycott and the Free the Latino 7 campaign — Los Siete de la Raza — a group of Latinos arrested for the murder of a plain clothes police officer and later acquitted.

Elaine Brown on the Ideological & Historical Significance of the BPP

Elaine Brown, a dynamic and powerful speaker, talked about juvenile incarceration and oppression, as well as the hypocrisy and promulgation of ideas in modern commercial hip hop music that distract the people from the real issues impacting our communities. Her presentation inspired the audience. Brown spoke of the extreme oppression through incarceration of black men and boys in America, prisoners of the politics of racism and capitalism in this country, and today's political prisoners.

Brown raised the question, "How can we talk about freedom today when Native Americans and others in this country are still exploited and oppressed? An important aspect of the BPP was their willingness and success at forming working relations with groups such as the American Indian Movement, Brown Berets, Young Lords, Weather Underground, Gays and Africans. The BPP supported the movement for victory in Vietnam and the liberation of women."

Brown made the point that we have to build institutions that enable us to struggle and LIVE in the struggle. Crime is a political question in America. Mass incarceration is a public policy issue. She declared that what we need is to build a GLOBAL REVOLUTION serving the people, body and soul.

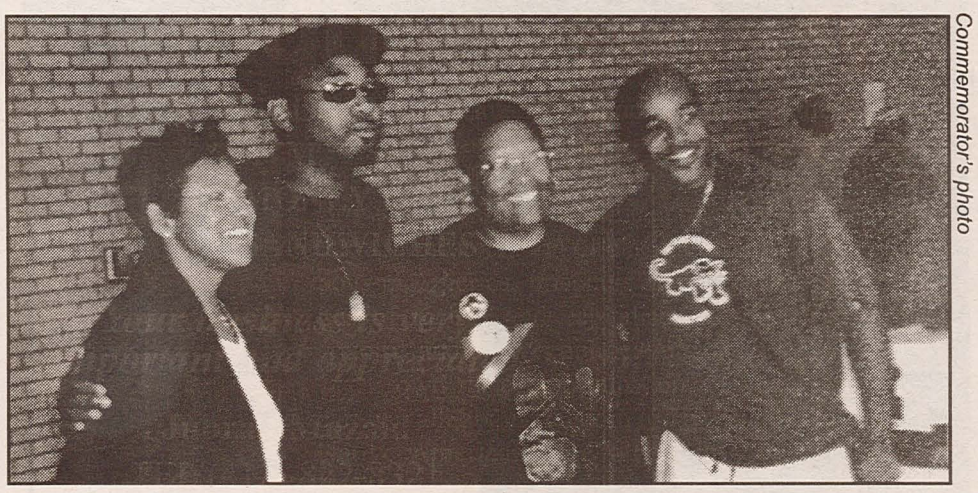
Added Hilliard, "Revolution is a class struggle. Racism is a by-product of capitalism. In order to see the problems we must do a class-based analysis. We need to address the issues of jobs, housing, and education."

Fred Hampton, Jr. called for revolutionary action

Fred Hampton, Jr., known as Li'l Fred, in utero at the time of his father's murder by the Chicago police, joined BPP stalwarts at the speakers podium. Strong and determined, Li'l Fred quoted his father as saying, "Don't even think about me unless you are engaging in revolutionary action." He said he knew he was not safe; he was not a social worker. Fred Jr. said that strong black leaders like Mumia Abu-Jamal and others are being held as political prisoners in the US and we should be working to set them free.

Later in the program, Li'l Fred's mother, Queen Yeyo Akua Njeri,

Continued on page 12



Commemorator's photo

At the late Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton Commemoration, (left-to-right) Elaine Brown, Fred Hampton, Jr, Queen Yeyo Akua Njeri, and Dorion Hilliard.

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A Message from Dave Heller

To Vote or Not to Vote, That Is Not the Only Question

The Democratic and Republican Parties have become less and less responsive to its electorate, especially to people of color. Most people have become so cynical and disillusioned with the political system, they have dropped out and choose not to vote.

The two party system has done very little to diversify our governing bodies and has done a lot to divide and disenfranchise tens of millions of potential voters. Is a vote for John Kerry really going to do anything for the black community? Will he pay any attention beyond patronizing lip service to the disaffected working poor…of any color?

Given the fact that he and his wife are worth somewhere between $900 million and $2 billion dollars, the question is rather rhetorical. Indeed both John Kerry and the last two President Bushes are members of a super-elite club, known as the Skull and Bones Society. What chance do working class people have against the continual onslaught of the independently wealthy privileged class?

It is also important to recognize that even though the choices we are given for President by the two major parties are increasingly similar and increasingly farther right wing that we can make a huge difference on the local and state level. We have many local and state voter initiatives and local legislators to decide on and this can help hold back the tide of fascism sweeping across America. As the corporate media entrenches itself more into a singularly right wing pro-business voice, it is ever more important for we the people to keep abreast of and find alternative sources of information on these initiatives and politicians as many are duplicitous. A healthy democracy is fully dependent on a well informed and fully participating electorate.

Democrats take the progressive left for granted and the Republicans treat the libertarian minded the same way. Their basic philosophy is you either vote for me or you get the candidate you like the least. It works both ways. Many would-be Republican voters voted for Perot in both 1992 and 1996 that may have given Bill Clinton two terms in office that he may not have rightly won. The same can be said for Bush vs. Gore in 2000. Many to this day blame Ralph Nader for "stealing" votes from Al Gore. This is known as the "spoiler effect."

The bottom line is the wealthy white male elite use the two party system to disenfranchise dissenting voices and squelch any voice that disagrees with their narrow agenda. In order to have a true, healthy, vibrant democracy, it is essential that we ALL vote.

It is easy to become completely disgusted and frustrated given the track record we have seen throughout the history of the United States. However, there was a brief period after the civil war, when many freed former slaves were elected to Congress and state legislatures. This frightened the ruling elite and they created many laws specifically to disenfranchise non-white voters (keep in mind that women did not get the right to vote until the 1920's). To this day, the privileged elite spends millions to keep black people from voting; most Southern states retain their laws that prevent convicted felons from voting. (For the record, if a convicted felon regains their right to vote in the state from which he was convicted, no other state can deny them their right to vote based on that felony conviction. Also, in California, convicted felons, once released from prison and off parole regain their right to vote. Read the voter registration card very carefully!)

It is clear that the only way that the working people have made social and civic rights gains is through resistance. Voting was one of those long fought struggles for which many people lost their lives. It would be irresponsible for us to willingly give up that right and it absolutely plays into the hands of the ruling elite hands.

The Democrats and Republicans in their respectively controlled states, have the ability to carve out electoral districts that virtually guarantees they retain their control. Using sophisticated computer programs, political consultants charging tens of thousands of dollars, provide candidates with carefully configured maps that solidify their place in office. This does very little for democracy or to hold officials accountable to the people that put them in office.

In recent years, Texas has had high profile fights in the legislature were the Democrats literally escaped to neighboring states to disallow the Republicans from re-drawing the political boundaries so as to get them more seats in Congress. The Republicans literally implored the state police to track down the Democrats so that they could get a quorum to be able to hoodwink the electorate.

There are solutions to these problems. Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) and Proportional Representation (PR) are two systems of democracy that will do away with the "spoiler effect," allow people to vote for whomever they think is truly the best candidate and diversify both the political discourse and governing bodies.

Instant Runoff Voting

IRV is a very simple system. Voters are empowered to rank their ballot, first, second, third, etc. (The ranking is optional, so if a voter truly does not like any of the remaining candidates, they do not have to rank them, however, it is a good idea.) All the first choices on the ballots are counted. If one candidate manages to get over 50% of the vote, they win. If no candidate has a majority, the candidate with the least votes is eliminated and the second choice votes of that candidate are redistributed to the remaining candidates. A test for majority is once again done and if not achieved, the remaining candidate with the least votes is eliminated.

San Francisco is in the midst of its first time use of IRV for this November's election and the results so far have been promising from a voter's standpoint. IRV requires a different campaign strategy than plurality voting. Candidates are not only trying to win first choice votes, but also win lots of second and third choice votes. As a result, candidates will be less likely to use negative campaigning against one another for fear of alienating that candidate's core and hoping to score those second choices.

This has actually had such a dramatic effect in San Francisco that ideologically aligned opponents have actually held fundraisers together to assure that they will get each other's second choices. This is resulting in a much more issue-based discussion and less on personal attacks.

The City of Berkeley has also voted to implement IRV pending the upgrade in voting equipment technology and will likely begin its use in 2006. The City of Oakland also has a provision to use IRV for special elections. Alameda County will be upgrading its equipment to allow Berkeley to use IRV, which will open the door for other cities in the county to follow suit very easily.

Once IRV has been tested on the local level and the "bugs" get worked out and voter education becomes broader, IRV can move to the state level and we will be able to rank our ballots for every office, including the President. (The Electoral College actually turns the race for President into 51 separate races and this is why the major party candidates concentrate their electioneering in a handful of "swing states." We actually vote for people to vote for President. What this allows however, is for states to be able to use IRV to vote for President without requiring the whole country to do the same, and this would give organizers a chance to advance the campaign strategically.)

If a large state like California were allowed to use IRV for the Presidential election, it would liberate people to vote for their favorite candidate and thus change the percentages in the polls enough to perhaps get some third party candidates into the Presidential debates. This is crucial to getting issues that are important, like the Ten Point Program, into mainstream thinking.

Proportional Representation

Proportional Representation (PR) works in a similar way from a voter's standpoint. A voter simply ranks their ballot from first to last choice. The difference is however, that instead of having a winner take all single seat district there are multi-seat districts. So, instead of there being only one representative per district, there are super-districts with more than one representative.

For example, if five districts were combined into one, the people in that district would rank their ballots and elect five candidates. If for example, the Democrats got 40% of the vote, the Republicans got 40% of the vote and the Greens got 20% of the vote, there would be 2 Democrat, 2 Republican and 1 Green Representative.

This has many advantages over single seat districts. For one, Democrats in districts which are controlled by a Republican have no one who represents them and if they have an issue they would like to speak to their representative about, they have little chance of getting a sympathetic ear from their ideologically polar opposite. PR would virtually guarantee that almost everyone would have at least one representative that they could be sympathetic to their cause.

PR also opens the door for third parties to gain a foothold. When the threshold is to gain a seat drops from 50% to 20% and there is no fear of "spoiling," it will become much easier for third party candidates to gain a seat. Many of the civil rights and social programs we have were sparked from third parties. Emancipation, women's suffrage and Social Security are just three examples but there are many more. Third parties are important to a thriving democracy and they should be encouraged.

The mechanical of PR from a voter viewpoint would be the same as voting in IRV. The voter would simply rank their ballot, first to last choice. The difference is in the threshold to win a seat and how the votes are counted. Using our 5-seat district example, after all the first choice votes are counted, any candidate who has 20% or more of the vote wins a seat. Any over-votes, that is, any votes in excess of that 20% are transferred to a second choice. So, for example, if we had a candidate who was very popular and got 40% of the first choice votes, half of those votes would be used to elect that candidate and the other half would move to the second choice.

If there are no candidates that reach the 20% threshold, then the candidate with the least amount of votes is removed and the second choices of that candidate are redistributed to the remaining candidates. This is repeated until one candidate reaches the threshold.

The advantage of this system is that voters can vote directly for candidates and it allows parties to be represented in proportion to their popular support.

Our democracy is in serious trouble, especially on the Presidential level but we must not sit down in despair but work towards substantive repair. There are many state and local initiatives that are important to decide which can help alleviate pressures heaped on us by the current executive branches of our state and federal governments. Resistance to the kinder gentler fascism we are seeing must be resisted in any way we can and voting is a very important part of that resistance.

Not participating in our elections only makes the wealthy white ruling class job of disenfranchising even more voters even easier, while at the same time legitimizing their narrow pro-corporate, fascist agenda.

Instant Runoff Voting and Proportional Representation are electoral systems that offer solutions to our current political gridlock. They will lead to a more diverse elected legislative and judicial and executive branches of government and more importantly broaden the diversity of ideas in those bodies. We are beginning to see these changes take place but we need to see them on the state and national level and these reforms are something we should all be demanding.

VOTE, DAMN IT!

For further information on IRV/PR and to get involved in promoting these reforms please go to the *Center for Voting and Democracy's (CVD) website, www.fairvote.org and Californians for Electoral Reform (CfER), www.cfer.org .*

(Dave Heller is a Bay Area Green Party activist and a* Commemorator *correspondent and distributor.)

Courtesy of former Illinois BPP cadre

At Malcolm X College in Chicago Elaine Brown (second from left) and former members of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party salute the memory of Fred Hampton and commit to honor it through their own practice.

For the Sake of Our Future

Continued from page 10

talked about the work of the BPP's free breakfast program, and about the night Fred Hampton was shot. She asked all former members to stand up and be recognized. Fred Jr. also invited to the stage the granddaughter of Chairman Fred, who recited a beautiful poem identifying herself as a revolutionary.

Music and Entertainment

The rap/hip-hop group, the F.U.G.I.T.I.V.E.S., performed with members James "Jamiel Hassan" Calhoun, Terrence "Jug" Trotter and Geoffrey "Bones" McMullen. They spoke to young people about the legacy and their responsibility to their history and future. Dorion Hilliard, son of David Hilliard, manages the group.

The African dance presentation by MINIANKA was an inspiring celebration. The group of ten dancers with three drummers was beautiful, with the dancers dressed in colorful, cowry shell laden bikini tops with complex skirts.

"I learned a *lot* on the day of the conference," stated Jennifer Laskin, a member of the New Brown Berets from Santa Cruz, California, who came to the conference as a guest of CCBPP. "One of the most beautiful things I saw that day was a high school teacher who brought 40 of his own students," she explained. "He said that he always starts off his school years teaching the Ten Point Program along side the Declaration of Independence. The young people were very attentive to the program."

In summing up the conference for CCBPP, Chairman Melvin Dickson said, "This event helped create a forum for people to come together. In the face of today's genocidal conditions, we need to use every opportunity to build our own means of creating solidarity between activists, revolutionaries and potential revolutionaries of all ages and from all parts of the country. The point is to work together to build the strength and the organizational structures to win the power to materialize those rights described in the Ten Point Program."

The Same Coin

Continued from page 2

what side it must represent, and it isn't the working class. They must sell massive amounts of weapons on the world market to promote war as the foundation of the US economy.

Both the Democrat and Republican parties are instruments of international monopoly capital. Both candidates support NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and Free Trade Zones, where the companies can be literally tax and duty free, and where they legalize environmental and economic disasters for working class communities across the United States and the globe.

International corporations do just about as they please and laws are passed to make legal whatever is in their interests — or they simply ignore the law with impunity, for the international courts are in their pockets as well and are not enforcing international law when it comes to the wealthiest class interests on earth.

Wherever the forces of monopoly capital need an obstacle to be removed from their path, politicians jump-jack. American taxpayers subsidize not only the US economic exploitation inside this beast's belly (ala enterprise zone tax breaks, bailouts of collapsed companies that steal pensions from their workers, workfare and more) but economic exploitation all around the globe. They use American tax dollars both to bomb countries to smithereens and to then "rebuild" them. They have recently done this from Bosnia to Afghanistan, from Iraq to Haiti. This so-called "rebuilding" then becomes just another means for the government to funnel our tax dollars to companies such as Bechtel and Halliburton.

Inside the Belly of the Beast

Today, as more living wage jobs disappear, replaced by machines and cheaper labor, destroying livelihoods, the US ruling class government continues to obliterate our so-called civil liberties. As they become unable or unwilling to continue to bribe the American working class — with things like job benefits for some, college educations for a few, affordable home mortgages for others — to the extent they had at the end of WWII they must oppress, incarcerate, intimidate, and terrorize us to control the people. This is fascist rule. This is a reversal of all previous so-called progressive reforms. This blocks all opportunities for upward economic and social mobility that were once considered the hallmark of the alleged "American Dream."

Those days, like the days of the dinosaurs, are long gone, and along with them, all social programs, such as welfare, disability, and educational grants that once provided the bribe to the US working class community and gave the appearance of some level of stability and survival and even "upward mobility" in some cases. These have been converted into and exposed as overt programs for control over the population.

Neither party mentions these social welfare programs anymore because US politicians know that to maintain their jobs they must support the international monopoly capitalist program, and these programs no longer fit their budget priorities. International monopoly capitalism does not need the US worker anymore as in days past. Everything from manufacturing to agricultural production has been relocated outside of the US, and commodities are transported here for marketing.

To gain a state office today one must raise tens of millions of dollars. To gain a national political office today one must raise hundreds of millions of dollars. By this November 7, billions will have been spent on the campaigns. That kind of money doesn't come out of the working class communities. US politicians are simply doing their jobs, protecting the monopoly capitalist status quo, and doing it by any means necessary with no end to the lies and cover-ups, with all the power of the media they own helping to prop it up.

Bush and Kerry CANNOT AFFORD to have any fundamental differences when it comes to the policies that affect international monopoly capitalism.

There are only two sides: JOIN US!

Professional politicians under the monopoly capitalist class' government and its one political allegiance must come down to the real politics of what side their bread is buttered on. To win in a federal election, that must be serving the interests of multinational corporations. The Republican right-wingers often make no bones about what side their bread is buttered on. The liberal, conservative and neo-liberal Democrats attempt to deceive the people by wearing sheep's clothing, desiring to be perceived as "do-gooders" mouthing the interest of the have-nots.

In reality, when the liberal politicians win office, they come out as bad as the wolves that don't hide their intent. In fact, they can be more dangerous — it's better to see your enemy from the first and meet them directly. Malcolm X was right that a liberal fox and conservative wolf are both grounded in the same capitalist system, and both are the enemy of the working class and the vast majority of minority peoples.

That is why the US working class movement must join together to take back our communities from the forces of monopoly capital so that we establish economic and social policies that allow for living wage jobs, education and health care for everyone, and in solidarity with, not at the expense of, workers in other countries.

Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party needs YOU to join us on our next community canvass, or to become a distributor of *The Commemorator* in your region of the country. Be part of bringing organization and leadership to our communities. Join the CCBPP organizing campaign so that we can take back our communities from a global, monopoly capitalist system and institute the principles and policies as expressed in the Ten Point Program.

They will stay in power, getting away with murder, and getting the working class to "vote" for them, only as long as we allow them to keep us from organizing and winning.

All Power to the People!

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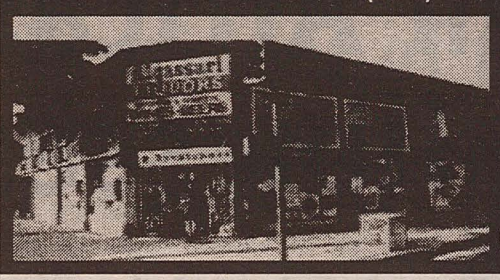

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AIDS in Africa: New Plague or Old Illnesses of Poverty?

Racist HIV Myth Hides Ruthless U.S. Exploitation.

Unlike in the United States, AIDS in Africa is most frequently diagnosed based on four very imprecise clinical symptoms—diarrhea, fever, persistent cough, and weight loss greater than 10% over two months. *HIV antibody tests are not required to diagnose a case of African AIDS.* These four clinical symptoms are identical to the problems created by conditions of poverty that have troubled Africa and other developing areas of the world for centuries. In fact, symptoms of the so-called African AIDS epidemic are indistinguishable from the effects of malnutrition, unsanitary drinking and bathing water, and common curable conditions like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, and parasitic infections.

Rather than solve the problems of African poverty caused by centuries of ruthless Western exploitation, the U.S. government insists on broadcasting the doomsday notion that Africa is suddenly gripped by a deadly, spreading sexual plague. According to these American health authorities, salvation from sickness can only be found in profitable pills manufactured by the white West and exported to black Africa.

America's Racist HIV Myth

The idea that AIDS originated in Africa is a popular myth without any scientific or epidemiological evidence. News reports that blame AIDS on African green monkeys are based upon elaborate speculation about species-jumping viruses rather than reliable proof. Tall tales about the spread of AIDS are promoted through the most vulgar and racist sexual stereotypes about promiscuous African people.

Still, the numbers speak for themselves. According to the 1999 *WHO Global HIV/AIDS Report,* the total number of AIDS cases in Africa virtually equals the total number of cases in America even though Africa, with its 650 million citizens, has more than two times the population of the United States. Africa is often cited as a worst case example of what could happen in America despite figures demonstrating that 99.5% of Africans do not have AIDS, and among Africans who test HIV positive, 97% do not have AIDS.

The Truth About African AIDS:

- **HIV antibody tests are not required for an AIDS diagnosis in Africa.**
- **African AIDS is diagnosed by four very imprecise clinical symptoms:**
  - **— Diarrhea**
  - **— Fever**
  - **— Persistent cough**
  - **— Weight loss greater than 10% over two months**
- **Tuberculosis, malaria, and measles far outnumber cases of AIDS in Africa.**
- **AIDS is not the leading cause of illness or death in any African nation.**

While Africa is the frequent target of damaging AIDS media reports, the total number of cases on the continent is relatively small. For example, from 1981 through 1999 cumulative AIDS cases for South Africa, the area claimed hardest hit by HIV, were just 12,825.

Exporting Extermination: AIDS Pills Kill!

It is undeniable that experimental AIDS treatments like protease inhibitors and AZT are all highly toxic, dangerous products. Strokes, muscle wasting, anemia, physical deformities, dementia, birth defects, organ failure, and death are some of the "side effects" of these poisons. Thousands of gay men in the 1980s and 1990s died from AZT poisoning. Now the U.S. State Department has elevated AIDS to the level of a threat to national security in order to gain public support for exporting AZT to pregnant African women. Outspoken leaders like South African President Thabo Mbeki—hard pressed to explain why developing nations stricken with famine and civil chaos should spend what little money they have on toxic anti-HIV drugs while millions starve—are relentlessly attacked as unfit and crazy by racist Western media outlets.

We invite you to investigate the growing international controversy over the cause and treatment of AIDS for yourself. Clip and mail the coupon below for a free copy of the groundbreaking book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* by AIDS survivor Christine Maggiore.

Fight the AID$ Fraud!

ACT UP San Francisco is the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—a militant, direct action organization committed to ending the AIDS fraud. General body meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at 1884 Market Street and our medical marijuana dispensary is open 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Get involved. Join ACT UP! End the abuse of AIDS.

Clip and mail the coupon below to receive a free copy of the book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* or contact us for more information at www.actupsf.com!

clip here

ACT UP
SAN FRANCISCO

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to: ACT UP • 1884 Market Street • San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 864-6686 • www.actupsf.com • actupsf@aol.com

Free Mumia • Free the Move 11 • Ya Basta! • Dyke Power! Fag Power! • Queers Bash Back • Free All Political Prisoners • Viva Zapata! • Animal Liberation Now

CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten-Point Program which was written in 1966 by Party founders, Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten-Point Program outlines goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working class communities in the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Our Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is reactionary intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation). CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten-Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program
WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

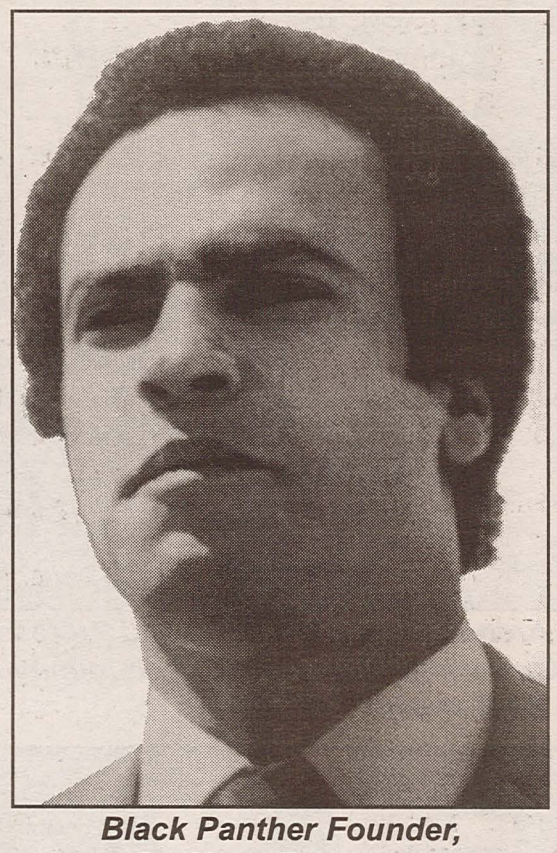
1. WE WANT FREEDOM, WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people in our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.



Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it is our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U.S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U.S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U.S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U.S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpation, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

The Dr. James A. Watson Wellness Center

James A. Watson, M.D. and Henry G. Watson, M.D.

Your Health is Your Wealth and

When You Have Your Health

You Have Everything

The Health Beat show, previously on the Soul Beat Network, has returned to the air Sundays on Channel 26 at 7:30 PM. The goal of the Health Beat show is to heal the community by providing education and a vehicle for disease prevention. The Health Beat Show has been on the air since 1997 and has premiered such guests as Dr. David Satcher (Previous surgeon general), Comedian Dick Gregory, Kwesi Mfume (President of NAACP), David Hilliard (Black Panther Party), the Presidents of Kaiser, Alta Bates, Summit and Highland Hospitals and a host of others.

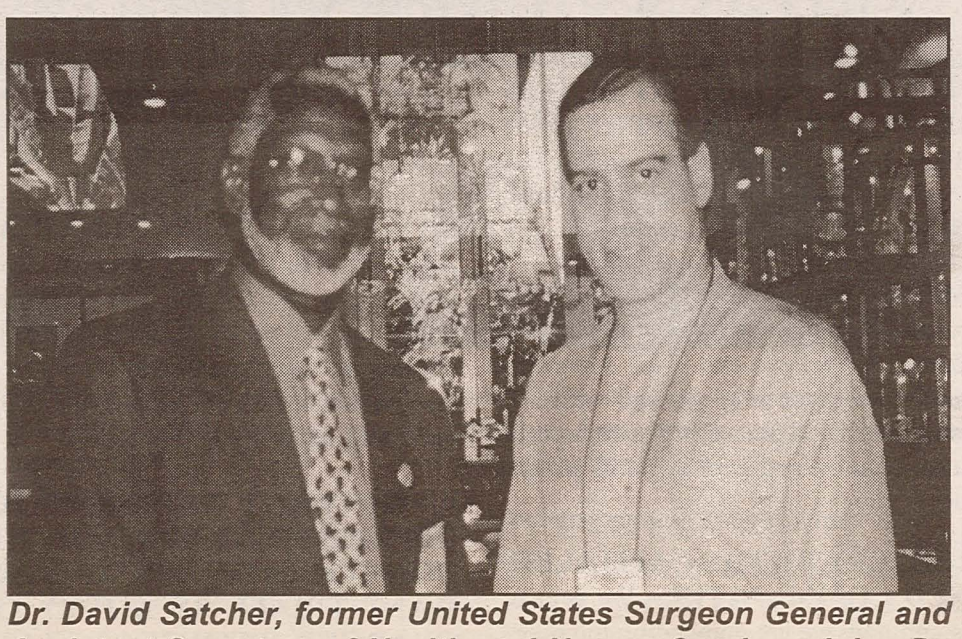
The show is hosted by Dr. H. Geoffrey Watson, Board certified Internist, President and CEO of the James A. Watson Wellness Center and past President of the Sinkles Miller Medical Association (representing 250 African American Physicians in the East Bay). Dr. Watson utilizes this media vehicle to direct people to health care services within the local community. African Americans have disparities in disease including diabetes, heart disease, cancer, HIV disease, infant mortality and lack of immunization. By giving presentations on healthy lifestyles, down home healthy cooking and fitness facts the community is encouraged to care for themselves and the family as a unit.

Future shows include specials on Community Clinics and services offered, the most current screening tests and treatments for disorders affecting African Americans and how to access health care (i.e. insurance vehicles, free programs, health facts etc.)

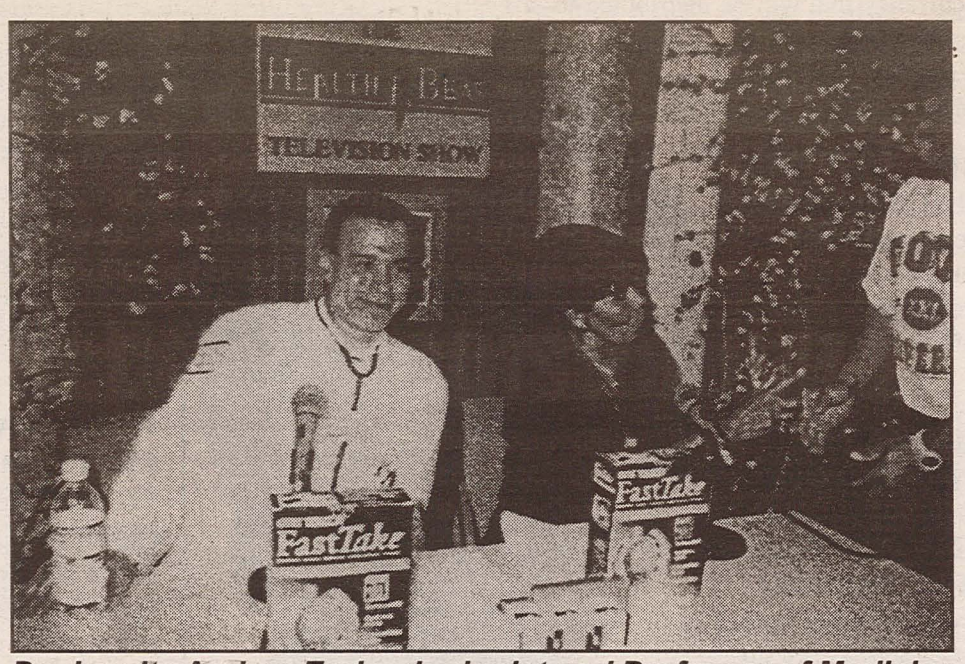
Watch the Health Beat Show Sundays at 7:30 on Channel 26. It's good for you. You will come to know that: Your Health is Your Wealth and When You Have Your Health, You Have Everything.

2940 Summit Street
Oakland, California
510.444.9460, Fax 510.444.1966

We are here to serve you.
Your health is your wealth.
When you have your health you have everything.
Accepting new patients and appointments.



Dr. David Satcher, former United States Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, joins Dr. Geoffrey Watson on The Health Beat show.



Dr. Juanita Archer, Endocrinologist and Professor of Medicine at Howard University, educates the community on diabetes on The Health Beat show.

Opening Day 1997 at the James A. Watson Wellness Center. Photographed (from left) are Chamber of Commerce members H. Geoffrey Watson M.D., Mayor Elihu Harris, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and Dr. James A. Watson.

The Healthy Oakland Save-A-Life Wellness Center

Grand Opening 10/23/04

West Oakland Recently experienced a reduction of health care services while mortality continued to grow in the area. The Healthy Oakland 501C3 Organization is opening a community Health Center and Family Resource Center at 2580 San Pablo Ave. on 10/23/04 to improve overall health care to West Oakland. Pastor Raymond Lankford, Glenda McComb, Andre Jackson and other Healthy Oakland Board members have partnered with the Community to Save-A-Life. The Center intends to provide computer training, educational seminars, acupuncture, chiropractic services, health screening, massages, meditation, counseling and medical therapy. With the blessing of Bishop Ernestine Reems and Pastor Bob Jackson, Healthy Oakland's foundation is strong. The clinical aspects of the center will be directed by Healthy Oakland board Member H. Geoffrey Watson M.D. and the James A. Watson Wellness Center. We expect to see you there for your overall health and well-being.

- **Primary Care**
- **Health Care for Seniors**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Health Care for Women**
- **Massage Therapy**
- **Chiropractic Care**

Listen to Dr. Watson on KYDA 1190 AM on *"The Health Beat"*

This page is sponsored by the James A. Watson Wellness Center